

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON THE FEBRUARY
28 NEWSWEEK ARTICLE

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 0892

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT PRE-
PARED FOR FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON FOR
USE AT HIS FEBRUARY 25 PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH
HE CONDEMNED THE ARTICLE ON JAMAICA WHICH APPEARED
IN THE FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK. PRESS ACCOUNTS
OF THE NEWS CONFERENCE SUGGEST THAT THE FOREIGN
MINISTER HEWED VERY CLOSELY TO THE PREPARED
TEXT. A NEWSMAN'S PENCILED NOTE AT THE END OF THE COPY
OF THE STATEMENT WE OBTAINED SUBSTANTIATES A PRESS REPORT
THAT PATTERSON, IN REFERRING TO HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT
TO WASHINGTON, EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NEWSWEEK
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REPORT WOULD NOT HARM "EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING"
AND THAT THERE CAN BE "COOPERATION ... FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
HEMISPHERE."

2. BEGIN TEXT:

FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS, LEADING UP TO THE 1976 GENERAL ELECTION,
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATION HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF ADVERSE
AND HOSTILE REPORTING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, PARTICULARLY
SECTIONS OF THE U.S. MEDIA.

THE HOSTILITY SEEMED TO HAVE STEMMED FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM. WITH THE 1976 ELECTIONS, AND THE PEOPLE'S RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PNP, WE HAD HOPED THAT THIS HOSTILITY WOULD END. INDEED, THERE WERE SOME VERY ENCOURAGING SIGNS. LAST WEEK IN FACT, THERE WERE POSITIVE STORIES ABOUT HOLIDAYING IN JAMAICA IN AT LEAST SIX MAJOR NEWSPAPERS IN NORTH AMERICA.

FURTHERMORE, THE POSITIVE WAY IN WHICH THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE U.S. PRESS REPORTED THE HISTORIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAMAICA AND KAISER ALUMINIUM AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION SUGGESTED THAT JAMAICA WOULD ONCE AGAIN RECEIVE HONEST AND FAIR TREATMENT.

AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND, IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN A MAJOR ARTICLE IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF NEWSWEEK WHICH MUST SURELY BE THE MOST VICIOUS, UNFOUNDED AND INACCURATE REPORTING EVER DONE ON JAMAICA. THE ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY ARNAUD DE BOURCHGRAVE UNDER THE HEADLINE CUBA'S ROLE IN JAMAICA IS CELEBRATED CHIEFLY FOR THE FACT THAT IT CONTAINS 17 PALPABLE LIES, INNUMERABLE HALF-TRUTHS AND COUNTLESS PRE-CONCEPTIONS BORN OUT OF ARROGANCE FOR COUNTRIES LIKE JAMAICA.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO RESPOND TO THE ARTICLE AT THIS LEVEL AND IN THIS WAY BECAUSE WE REGARD IT AS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE FEAR AND PANIC AT HOME AND SUSPICION AND DOUBT ABROAD. WE ARE ALSO TAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS STEP BECAUSE WE DO NOT WISH ANYONE TO REGARD THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE AS A BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING POLICY AND ISSUES IN JAMAICA. WE KNOW OF THE PHENOMENON CALLED 'PACK JOURNALISM' WHERE A LEADING PUBLICATION COMES OUT WITH A POINT OF VIEW AND OTHERS SIMPLY RUSH IN TO PUBLISH VARIATIONS ON THAT POINT OF VIEW IN ORDER TO BE PART OF AN ONGOING STORY.

IT WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE IF NEWSWEEK SHOULD MISLEAD OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN THIS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED ATTACK ON JAMAICA AND ALSO ON NEW INITIATIVES IN THE CARIBBEAN.

I WILL NOW CATALOGUE THE MAJOR LIES THAT NEWSWEEK HAS TOLD ABOUT JAMAICA:

(1) THE VICTORY OF THE PNP ON DECEMBER 15 WAS DUE TO DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. THAT LIE IS ABSURD.

(2) THE PNP VICTORY WAS DUE TO HELP FROM PHILLIP AGEE - THE FORMER CIA AGENT. THAT LIE IS EQUALLY ABSURD.

(3) THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT FIRED ANYBODY FROM SPECIAL BRANCH. IN FACT, NOBODY HAS BEEN FIRED FROM SPECIAL BRANCH BY ANYONE AND ANYBODY CAN CHECK THAT.

(4) CUBA DOES NOT HAVE THE BIGGEST EMBASSY IN KINGSTON.

(5) THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY STAFF ARE INTELLIGENCE AGENTS.

(6) CUBAN AIRLINES DO NOT SHUTTLE IN AND OUT, AT ALL HOURS, LOADING AND UNLOADING CRATES AND PEOPLE WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED AND NO RECORDS KEPT.

(7) NO MEMBERS OF SPECIAL BRANCH ARE BEING TRAINED IN GUYANA BY CUBAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. THAT'S A LIE.

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(8) JAMAICA HAS NOT, SINCE 1975 "RELIED HEAVILY ON CASTRO'S AID AND ADVICE."

(9) AGEE'S VISIT TO JAMAICA WAS NOT ORGANIZED BY "SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND PNP AIDES." ASK THE JAMAICA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEY CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

(10) THE PNP IS NOT USING "TERROR TACTICS AGAINST THE OPPOSITION". THE OPPOSITION CAN CERTAINLY REFUTE THIS ALLEGATION.

(11) THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT OF RAPE IN THE UNFORTUNATE REMA INCIDENT - THE WHOLE CIRCUMSTANCES OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING PUBLICLY INVESTIGATED BY A HIGH-LEVEL IMPARTIAL ENQUIRY SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT.

(12) THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT ORGANIZING A 20,000 - MEMBER PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO "STAND UP" TO THE ARMY. THAT'S ANOTHER LIE.

(13) IT IS A LIE TO SAY THAT 20 JAMAICAN INTELLIGENCE MEN HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY THE CUBANS IN GUYANA AND ARE NOW HOME TO POLITICIZE THE ARMY AND THE POLICE.

(14) IT IS ALSO A LIE TO SAY THAT 200 MORE TRAINEES ARE IN THE GUYANA PIPELINE.

(15) THERE ARE NO CUBAN 'PEACE CORPS' "PROELYTIZING" AMONG JAMAICANS.

(16) THERE IS NO SPLIT IN THE PNP BETWEEN "MODERATED AND PRO-CUBAN HARD LINERS".

(17) JAMAICA IS NOT BECOMING A MARXIST COUNTRY.

IN ORDER THAT THE RECORD BE ABSOLUTELY STRAIGHT, I WISH TO OUTLINE CERTAIN FACTS.

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FIRSTLY, AS FAR AS OVERSEAS TRAINING OF POLICEMEN ARE CONCERNED, IT IS A FACT THAT 39 MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE RECEIVED OVERSEAS TRAINING IN 1976. 15 WERE TRAINED IN THE U.K., 16 IN GUYANA, 7 IN THE UNITED STATES AND ONE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

THE 16 WHO WERE IN GUYANA WERE THERE FROM SEPTEMBER 5 TO OCTOBER 16, 1976 AND THEY ARE UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE JAMAICA HOUSE GUARDS. THEY ARE NOT MEMBERS OF SPECIAL BRANCH OR THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL SECURITY, BUT THE MEN ON DUTY AT THE GATES. THEY WERE TRAINED BY GUYANESE OFFICERS AND NOT BY CUBANS IN GUYANA.

SECONDLY, THERE IS NO PEOPLE'S MILITIA BEING ESTABLISHED TO STAND UP TO THE ARMY. WE ARE ESTABLISHING A HOME GUARD TO FUNCTION UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE POLICE IN PATROLLING THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS IN OUR DRIVE AGAINST CRIME.

THIRDLY, IN JULY 1975, AN AGREEMENT FOR ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN JAMAICA AND CUBA WAS SIGNED. PRIOR TO THAT DATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN CUBA TO JAMAICA WAS NONEXISTENT.

AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY JAMAICA MULTILATERALLY AND BILATERALLY, CUBAN CONTRIBUTION CERTAINLY DOES NOT RANK AMONGST THE LARGEST THOUGH IT IS QUITE SIGNIFICANT GIVEN THEIR OWN RESOURCES.

THE UNDP IS THE LARGEST OVERALL CONTRIBUTOR. FOR 1972-1976 THE CONTRIBUTION WAS \$7.5 MILLION AND FOR 1977, PROPOSAL IS THAT EXPENDITURE WILL BE J\$1.07 MILLION. AID FROM THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IS ALSO SUBSTANTIAL.

BILATERALLY, ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM THE NETHERLANDS, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, NEW ZEALAND, UNITED STATES AND CANADA RATE AMONG THE LARGEST THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER.

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AS I POINTED OUT EARLIER, THE ARTICLE IS UNBELIEVABLE FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF FALSEHOODS IT CONTAINS. BUT THEN, THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE THE AUTHOR IDENTIFIES HIS MAIN SOURCE AS "SENIOR INTELLIGENCE MEN IN BRITAIN, FRANCE, VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES." ONE MUST WONDER WHETHER THESE MEN ARE AS KNOWLEDGEABLE AS THOSE NON-EXISTENCE EX-SPECIAL BRANCH MEN 'RECENTLY FIRED BY MANLEY'.

APART FROM THE DAMAGE WHICH THIS ARTICLE COULD CAUSE IN AND TO JAMAICA, ONE MUST LOOK AT ITS LARGER PURPOSE. IN THIS CONTEXT IT MUST BE DENOUNCED AS A DIRECT ATTEMPT TO STIR UP LOCAL AND U.S.-BASED FORCES TO ACT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA.

IT MUST BE DENOUNCED AS AN ATTEMPT TO HURT THE JAMAICAN ECONOMY BY SEEKING TO DISCOURAGE TOURISM AND INVESTMENT.

IT MUST BE DENOUNCED AS A CALL TO ADHERENTS OF PROLONGING THE 'COLD WAR' IN THE CARIBBEAN INSTEAD OF MOBILIZING TO ACHIEVE DETENTE. IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE TISSUE OF LIES FABRICATED TO DAMAGE JAMAICA ARE ALSO THE PLATFORM FROM WHICH DE BOUCHGRAVE HAS LAUNCHED HIS ATTACK AGAINST THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE MUST BE SEEN FROM THE HEADLINE 'CUBA'S ROLE IN JAMAICA' AND THE CLAIM THAT "ALONG WITH THE TALK OF RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE U.S., CASTRO'S AGENTS ARE STEADILY BUILDING THEIR INFLUENCE IN KINGSTON." THIS MUST BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF ANDREW YOUNG'S RECENT ACCOLADES OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND THE WIDELY HELD BELIEF THAT HIS GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH U.S. AND CUBA GIVES HIM SPECIAL STATUS IN HELPING TO BRING ABOUT THE REALITY OF RAPPROCHEMENT.

THIS VIEW IS SUPPORTED BY THE NONSENSICAL EDITING OF THE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE RETURNED FROM CUBA A 'CHANGED MAN'.

THIS ARTICLE IS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO SMEAR JAMAICA AT A TIME WHEN THE FOREIGN MEDIA IN GENERAL WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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JUST BEGINNING TO DISPLAY SOME REGARD FOR ACCURACY IN THEIR REPORTING ON JAMAICA. IT REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE RECENT MANIFESTATION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE RE-ELECTION OF THIS GOVERNMENT.

LET ME ONCE AGAIN RESTATE IN THE CLEAREST TERMS THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA IS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND AS SUCH PURSUES ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS ON THE BASIS OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WHILE MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING OUR TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, WE ALSO SEEK TO DEVELOP NEW RELATIONSHIPS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND FRIENDLY COOPERATION.

OUR DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN TO OVERCOME THE CAMPAIGN OF HOSTILITY FROM THOSE JOURNALISTS WHO WOULD SEEK TO DENY US AS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY THE RIGHT TO FREELY DETERMINE BY OUR OWN CHOICE OUR COURSE OF DOMESTIC CHANGE AS WELL AS OUR FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS. WHAT IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING IS THAT THOSE WHO WOULD THUS DENY US OF OUR SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF ESTABLISHING NEW RELATIONSHIPS SIMULTANEOUSLY CONTRIVE TO DISRUPT AND UNDERMINE EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THIS WAS THE GENERAL INTENTION OF THIS ARTICLE COMING AT THE TIME IT HAS, THAT IS, ON THE EVE OF MY VISIT

TO THE UNITED STATES FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE
MR. CYRUS VANCE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.
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